

Artist Statement

Dan Wolbert - Sculptor

Georgetown Township Veterans Memorial

"For Those I love I Will Sacrifice"

Melinda Whitten, Principle Landscape Architect, M.C. Smith Associates, Inc. asked if I would collaborate with her on this project. Her original concept was that of the "rose window" found in cathedrals and churches. Melinda wanted a fitting focal point to honor the Veterans of Georgetown Township from all wars and conflicts and all branches of the military.

My research for this project was typical in many respects. I reviewed images, read history considered the site conditions, and considered the function of the memorial. I was humbled as I began bring into focus the scope of the sacrifice the Veterans made. Veterans, their families, and friends have given so much to allow all of us to enjoy the lives we have.

I chose that most abundant metal on earth, aluminum, as a vehicle to honor what I perceive to be a rare human trait, selflessness. In my research I saw an image of a wounded marine being airlifted from a combat zone with a barely visible tattoo that read; "For those I love I sacrifice." In a, "me first", world there are those who have in their personality this quiet, humble, confident and powerful trait that allows them to put others first.

The Romans used arches employing heavy shaped stones for many of their building projects. The stones are held in position by the force of gravity and the compression of each stone on the next. This system only works when each part holds its own place. The arch has long since been used in building because of its strength, beauty, simplicity, and grace. The design of this segmental arch mimics the stone arches used centuries ago. Each Branch of the service has its own place and function. Each is independent and dependent on the others to offer us a "dome" of protection.

As in a stone arch, the abutment was fundamental. In this arch, the two abutments / foundations are the POW / MIA service members on the right hand side and the fallen, depicted by the Battlefield Cross on the left. They are both literally and figuratively the supports for the structure.

Honoring all service members from all wars and conflicts using a “rose window” concept was a challenge. Knowing there is a brotherhood and comradery that is only known by those who served and the extreme loyalty to their respective branches of service I chose the Emblems / Symbol of each branch as the focal point of each panel. During the research phase, the DoD informed me that I would need to gain the approval and the appropriate artwork for each from the Pentagon. What you see was specifically approved for the Georgetown Township Veterans Memorial. The emblems appear in the order of their birthdates. Each is held in place by tabs on the back that form the five points of a star. The size reflects the size of the large sixteen-inch guns on the Iowa class battleships from WWII. Each panel appears to float in its frame while each section is seamlessly connected to the others, yet visually independent.

Please join me in honoring all of the Veterans who served, were captured, wounded, or given their lives to offer us the freedom we enjoy.

Below is a list of companies and individuals who consulted and companies that contributed to make this project possible:

Catherine Zicafoose, (Division Chief OSD Graphics) CIV WHS ESD (US) The Pentagon Washington DC

Ms. Adrien F. C. Starks, Senior Assistant for Public Affairs Policy Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs)/ Community and Public Outreach DoD Branding and Trademark Licensing Program The Pentagon

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